



# MDPA news

November 2007 Concord, CA 925-685-7073 Volume 34 Issue 11

## Meeting Notice

Date: November 16, 2007  
Place: Club House  
Dinner: 6:30 PM  
Program: 7:00 PM  
Board Meeting: N/A

President's Message November 2007  
By Vince Siebern

## *GONE TO GUATEMALA*

## Communications Report By Steve Kennedy

Trips, trips everywhere. As you can see by the Presidents report above, our esteemed president should be returning from his Mexican/Guatemalan excursion any day now. The Siebern's and several other regular dinner participants were busy during this month's dinner. But, as those of you who were there know, they missed a Halloween blow out. Of course, I'm prejudiced, since Diane and I put on the Halloween dinner this year. Costumes were optional, but several brave souls donned costumes and made it a fun night for everyone. You can see some of the pictures later in this newsletter. We also had a guest speaker who talked to us about aviation archaeology. Christopher Freeze runs a website called [checksix.com](http://checksix.com), and is a member of Concord Flying Club. It was extremely interesting to learn some information about aircraft wreck sites here in the Bay Area.

Speaking of trips, (weren't we?), your '08 officers are officially elected now, (see the article later in this issue) and are already working on scheduling your '08 trips. Look for future editions of the newsletters with the upcoming trips.

There seems to be some activity around the airport development project by AIG. MDPA has received a copy of the Preliminary Environmental Inspection Report. If you'd like more information we'll try to have a report at the November dinner.

Speaking of dinner (weren't we?), November will see the return of Richard Roberts' famous Sopas. We've found a story that ran in the newsletter several years ago explaining the history of Sopas, so we thought it might be fun to recycle that story. Look for it later in this issue.

Speaking of trips (huh?), many of you went on the trip to Montana earlier this year. Just recently we received a press release from the Recreational Aviation Forum, based in Bozeman, Montana. They are a non-profit organization that promotes flying for recreation. We've included their news article in this newsletter as well.

All in all, we have a great issue for you this month, and a great month of dinners, and meetings coming up.

Stay Safe.

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BOZEMAN, MT The non-profit Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), headquartered here with national membership, has had a very productive year. The totally-volunteer group was integral to the completion of the beautiful and full-service pilot camping facility at the Bozeman airport (BZN). RAF President John McKenna commented, It couldn't have happened without a lot of cooperation between the RAF and the Bozeman Airport Authority, but it took the RAF with its mission to expand recreational opportunities to get it done. Columbus, Montana, also boasts of an attractive, comfortable pilot shelter, done by RAF supporters led by Alan Drain of Columbus.

Near West Glacier, a small group of area RAF volunteers is turning a lot of sweat, many picnic lunches and some chain saw gas into a rustic pilot shelter in the beautiful setting at Ryan Field. Completion of this facility is expected in the spring. Marv Hessler, RAF supporter from Great Falls, donated a 1992 Grand Voyager van for a courtesy car and Mr. Hessler donated architectural services for the concrete foundation. By 2009 the RAF expects to open Ryan Field to public use pending the resolution of a safety issue on adjoining Forest Service property.

RAF support was instrumental in securing approval for the Russian Flats airstrip on the Lewis & Clark National Forest travel plan. There is much more to be done there, stated McKenna, but with approval, we look forward to cooperating with the appropriate folks to make it a feasible recreational destination, he added.

An essential project that was completed was the 49-page Recreational Airstrips on Public Lands, a comprehensive reference guide for land managers. Montana Director Chuck Jarecki researched the history, issues and solutions and included examples, photos and precedent-setting agreements that will be a valuable aid in future decisions regarding the feasibility of recreational airstrips.

Part of the necessary research in producing this Guide was provided by the Wolf Aviation Fund grant, which enabled the RAF to contract with legal aide Burt Hurwitz of Missoula. His task was to research the recreational-use statues in 12 western states. The primary outcome of this comprehensive research was the drafting and eventual passage of Montana Senate Bill 318, during the 2007 session, clarifying the limits of the liability of private land owners with airstrips on their property. This landmark statute, favorable to land owners, should provide important precedent to the remaining states with no aviation use in their current recreational use statues.

**MDPA Mission Statement**

The Mount Diablo Pilots' Association is a non-profit organization based at Buchanan field in Concord, California (KCCR). There are many benefits to joining the club. The purposes of the Mount Diablo Pilots' Association are:

- To promote good public relations between general aviation enthusiasts and the local community.
- To encourage participation in fly-ins and other aviation activities.
- To promote safety and educational activities for pilots.
- To provide mutual resources of information on flying for members.
- To furnish information and support to the Contra Costa Airport Advisory Committee and other governmental agencies concerned with aviation.
- To be a proxy on aviation matters of community concern for its membership.

RAF is working with the folks in New Mexico and Maine on recreational aviation projects in their respective states.

If you are concerned about the increasing pressures that reduce recreational aviation opportunities around the country, we encourage your membership in this dynamic non-profit organization. See [recreationalaviationfoundation.org](http://recreationalaviationfoundation.org) for details and contact information.

### November Dinner Meeting, Friday November 16th

Richard and Kathy Roberts will feature a menu of Portuguese “Sopas”. Now if you are like me and not from a Portuguese background, you may wonder, “What in the world is sopas?”. In Portuguese, “sopas” means “soup” but this is no regular soup!! It is more like a savory beef stew flavored with mint served over a bed of more fresh mint and French bread. The sopas are traditionally served as part of the annual Portuguese Holy Ghost Festival. Or as some call it, the Festa. A tradition from the Portuguese Azores, it is celebrated all through the summer months, usually on the weekend culminating with a dinner of sopas that is prepared and served on Sunday. Most Holy Ghost Organizations serve hundreds of people and some serve thousands of people the sopas meal which is usually served free of cost to the guests.

According to Richard’s cousin, Carlos, the practice started in the 14th century during the reign of King Diniz and his wife, Queen Isabel, who gave her crown and jewels to the Church to buy bread and meat for the poor when all in Portugal were starving from a great famine. As a consequence, Queen Isabel became St. Isabel and is, today, the patron saint of the Festa.

But, however the tradition started, it is a meal not to be missed So please join with us at the clubhouse Friday November 16th at 6:30 pm to sample this famous Portuguese fare. As usual, please RSVP ASAP via email at [dinners@mdpa.org](mailto:dinners@mdpa.org) no later than Wednesday evening November 14th.

**By the way, we will also have a speaker. Since Jason, the Tower Chief is transferring to SFO, Patricia, his assistant will be assuming those duties. She’s signed on to come to dinner an meet all of us.**

### Annual Election of Officers

As provided in the Bylaws of the Association, the annual election of officers was held at the October meeting.

Your 2008 officers are:

President Pat Miller  
First Vice President (Activities) Richard Roberts  
Second Vice President (Programs) Maureen Bell  
Third Vice President (Communications) Steve Kennedy  
Facilities Director Lorraine Bartneck  
Secretary Bev Levy  
Treasurer Bob Belshe  
Member-at-Large John Levy

In addition, Vince Siebern has accepted the non-elective position of Past President..

Please join us in congratulating these members on their election and in thanking them for their willingness to serve as our elected officers for the year 2008.



Diane Kennedy



Lorraine Bartneck



Maureen Bell



Andria Achelis and Diz Laird



Scott Achelis

Maureen Bell  
and  
John Potter



Jay McCartney



Bev Levy Collecting money  
form Johannes Verhoek



“Thinking Safety Before, Not After”  
MDPA Safety Clinic---Moderator-- John Potter

Our pres-elect asked me to write something about our clinics. I said “sure, I’ll keep it short.” I could write a thesis on why the “Clinic” was started. Admittedly, in part, because it is in our Mission Statement” and we hardly ever talk about it. Our dinner meetings simply are not conducive to the subject---can’t really get into the nitty gritty of how things can go wrong. Not good for digestion. So, we have married the subject with the monthly classic aircraft demo breakfast on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. Food seems to get people out.

Last week we discussed the experience of spatial disorientation and what it felt like. Few of us have experienced it but all of us can if we just go looking for trouble. Guess what, the VFR guy is the most prone to get into this box. Consider conditions where there are false horizons, or none, or a very dark night. We also put out the question of taking off on 19 and losing the engine - - where would you go? I do not think that any of us had a good answer and that lead to the discussion of how to tell the tower you would rather use another runway, and what reasoning might be.

Here I have raised questions-----the answers are from each of the pilots sharing their actual experiences and the rest of us doing root-cause analysis or how they got into that fix in the first place. Please join us.

John Potter --- Moderator (I do not teach anything)



It's that time of year again! Along with Thanksgiving, Christmas planning and all the other Holiday fare, it's time to renew your MDPA membership. We take all forms of payment. Cash, check, Pay-Pal accounts, barter, whatever. So take a few minutes in your busy schedules and remember to renew your membership.

Speaking of the Holiday, start your planning now for our "FAMOUS" Holiday dinner meeting. The board has set a date earlier than normal so as not to interfere too much with your holiday plans. The date will be December 14th, and the format will be as in the past. The club will provide the turkey and ham, and the rest of the meal will be pot luck. We'll also have the much talked about gift exchange. Look for details in the coming month.

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Blue Skies and Tailwinds to:

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First Class Mail  
Address Correction Requested